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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative, Kathy Smith Dias on October 9, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

REPLACE the claim set with the following:

Proposed Amendment

1. A method for preparing a peptide having selectively protected amines of untargeted sites comprising synthesizing the peptide by separately blocking amines of targeted sites of the peptide with either ivDde or Mtt, and amines of untargeted sites of the peptide with Boc, and protecting N^α-amine of the peptide with Fmoc or Nsc, wherein the peptide contains at least one targeted site and at least one untargeted site.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising substituting the amine protecting groups for amines of the untargeted sites and for the N^α-amine with at least one final amine protecting group selected from the group consisting of Fmoc, Nsc, Dde and ivDde.
3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising substituting the amine protecting groups for amines of the untargeted sites and for the N^α-amine with Boc.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein synthesis of the peptide is performed by solid phase synthesis.

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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide is divided into at least two fragments, the fragments are synthesized separately, and then the fragments are condensed to form the peptide.

6-12. (*cancelled*)

13. A method for preparing a peptide having selectively protected sites comprising synthesizing the peptide by separately blocking amines of polyethylene glycol (PEG)-targeted sites of the peptide with Boc, and amines of untargeted sites of the peptide with either ivDde or Mtt, and protecting N^α-amine of the peptide with Fmoc or Nsc, wherein the PEG-targeted sites are sites to be conjugated with polyethylene glycol (PEG) and the untargeted sites are to remain as free amine after conjugating targeted sites with PEG, wherein the peptide has at least one targeted site and at least one untargeted site.

14. A method for preparing a peptide for conjugation of PEG at selected sites, the method comprising synthesizing the peptide by separately blocking amines of polyethylene glycol (PEG)-targeted sites of the peptide with either ivDde or Mtt, and amines of untargeted sites of the peptide with Boc, and protecting N^α-amine of the peptides with Fmoc or Nsc, wherein the peptide has at least one targeted site and at least one untargeted site and following synthesis of the peptides, the targeted sites are conjugated with polyethylene glycol (PEG) and the untargeted sites remain as free amine after conjugating targeted sites with PEG.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims as presented above are allowable over the prior art. The prior art, while teaching peptide synthesis does not teach the use of mixed protecting groups for amines, as in instant claim 1. The prior art provides general teachings regarding protecting group strategies, however it does not provide sufficient teachings that would lead one to select a mix of protecting groups, as is instantly claimed.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW D. KOSAR whose telephone number is (571)272-0913. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 08:00 - 16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia J. Tsang can be reached on (571)272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew D Kosar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1654